

# **Nebraska's Area Agency on Aging Network**

## **What is an Area Agency on Aging?**

Area Agencies on Aging are dedicated to assisting older adults in remaining independent in their own homes and communities. Fulfilling this mission allows the older adult the privacy, dignity and independence he or she deserves and assists the state in reducing its expenditures on institutional long term care. Please refer to Appendix A for a list of Area Agency on Aging services that are available on a contribution or sliding-fee scale basis to assist older Nebraskans.

- Nebraska's Aging Services Network is comprised of eight Area Agencies on Aging and a State Unit on Aging within the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Each Area Agency on Aging was created through interlocal agreements entered into by the participating counties in each state-designated service area. Area Agencies on Aging have entered into a contractual relationship with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Federal funding from the Older Americans Act is passed through the State Unit on Aging. Additional funding is provided through the Nebraska Community Aging Services Act (CASA), Care Management, and county funding. One of the most significant sources of funding for AAA programs is participant contributions for services received.

### **The Role of Area Agencies on Aging:**

The role of the Area Agency on Aging is to plan, coordinate and advocate for the development of a comprehensive service-delivery system to meet the short and long-term needs of older persons in a specific geographic area. It is accomplished by working with federal, state, and local officials, elderly constituents, service providers and the private sector to coordinate existing services and to stimulate new services.

The Nebraska Area Agencies on Aging are authorized by State Statute and in fiscal year 2011 received \$7,219,091 in Care Management and Community Aging Services Act funding. That investment in State funds is used to deliver services to older Nebraskans, many of whom have care needs that would result in placement of nursing facilities if not for the supportive services arranged by the Area Agencies on Aging.

